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REPORT

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SUBJECT SED Organizational Activity in the Western Sectors of Berlin

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1. SED units below the Kreis level in the western sectors of Berlin have recently been instructed to discuss the possibility of holding future assemblies in the form of Ten-Man Group meetings in private homes. Discussions of the problem are to be held under the pretext of discussing a winter relief program for the western sectors. The ostensible necessity for Ten-Man Group meetings will be that lack of electricity and fuel will prohibit large assemblies in the coming months. In functionary circles, however, it has been explained that the purpose behind scaling meetings down to the groups of ten is the preparation of the party for illegal work.
2. Consideration in "open" party meetings, before possibly unreliable members, of the plans for eventual illegal work is being vigorously opposed by veteran Communist Party functionaries. They point out that not more than two to five per cent of the party membership can be considered for active illegal work, and that this small percentage already knows how to work together. Thus there is no need for lengthy and insecure public discussions.
3. Aside from objections on security grounds, the plan for organizing illegal work within the Ten-Man Group framework is running into purely organizational difficulties. The lack of trained functionaries to carry out the reorganization is too great, and such functionaries are already committed for even more important projects. The current top-priority project of setting up factory group activity represents a serious strain on already overburdened functionaries. As long as the organizing of the factory groups can be openly carried out, it will require the major portion of party energy. Consequently, premature work within the Ten-Man Group framework should be avoided, according to Party veterans.
4. Preparation of the Ten-Man Groups for illegal activity is separate from the projected reorganization and renovation of the Ten-Man Groups as activist units for class warfare. This renovation is related to the over-all purge of unreliable and sluggish elements from the Party, and is not objected to by the veteran functionaries.

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Comments: It appears that disunity within functionary circles of the SED results in all decisions of the Landesverband Berlin receiving varied interpretations on lower levels. At the same time, all orders from the Landesverband are carried out in feverish haste in order to prevent the high functionaries from realizing the poor organizational conditions.)

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